

ABSTRACT

It is an object of the present invention to provide a sheet-material foreign-matter detecting method and apparatus capable of securely detecting foreign matter attached to a sheet material. That is, the foreign matter attached to the sheet material is detected by applying light emitted from a light source to a sheet material, by picking up a light-source image reflected to the surface of the sheet material by image pickup means, and by judging a difference between brightnesses of a reflected image due to a difference between reflectances of the sheet material and the foreign matter.